

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

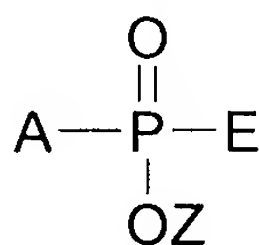
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims

1. (Original) A process for utilizing hypophosphorous acid or its salts thereof as a chain transfer agent in the aqueous polymerization of acrylic acid with allyloxy monomers to form an acrylic acid copolymer, comprising:

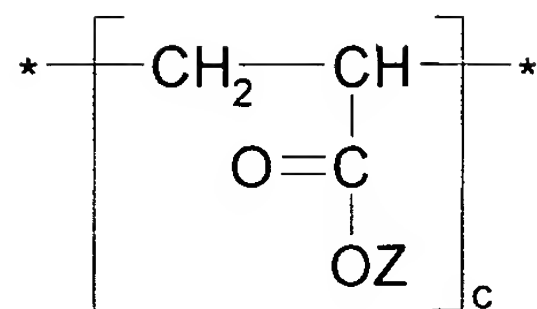
- a) charging the allyloxy monomer initially to the polymerization reactor;
- b) metering into the polymerization reactor the hypophosphorous acid and acrylic acid feeds in a staggered fashion such that the hypophosphorous acid feed is from 0% to 75% the duration of the acrylic acid feed;
- c) simultaneously charging a water-soluble initiator to the polymerization reactor wherein the duration of the initiator feed is from 0% to 150% the duration of the acrylic acid feed, wherein at least 75 mole % of the hypophosphorous acid charged is incorporated into the resulting polymer matrix.

2. (Previously Amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the acrylic acid copolymer comprises a water-soluble or water-dispersible polymer of the formula

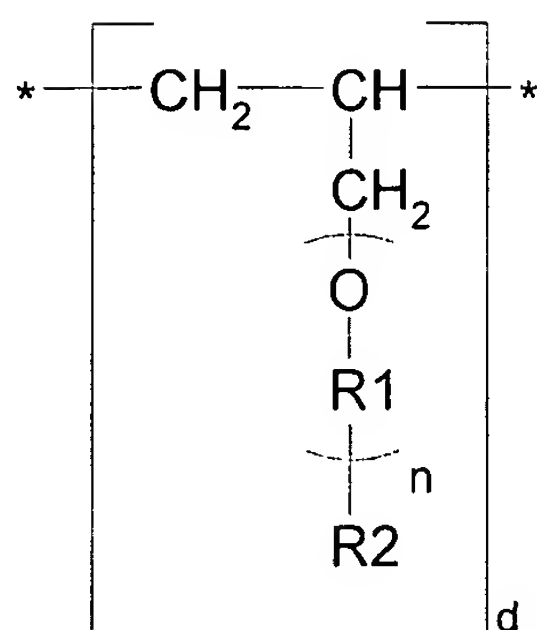


wherein A is a random polymeric residual comprising at least one unit of the formula

-3-



and at least one unit of the formula



and E is hydrogen, OZ, a residue A, or mixtures thereof; wherein segment R1 is -CH₂-CH₂-, -CH₂-CH(CH₃)-, -CH₂-CH(OH)-, -CH₂-CH(OH)-CH₂-, or mixtures thereof; R2 is OH, SO₃Z, OSO₃Z, PO₃Z₂, OPO₃Z₂, CO₂Z, or mixtures thereof; n ranges from 1 to 100; Z is hydrogen or a water soluble cation selected from the group consisting of Na, K, Ca and NH₄; the molar ratio c:d ranges from 30:1 to 1:20.

3. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the allyloxy monomer is 1-allyloxy-2,3-propanediol; sodium 1-allyloxy-2-hydroxypropyl sulfonate; hydroxypolyethoxy allyl ether; ammonium allylpolyethoxy sulfate; or mixtures thereof.

4. (Previously Amended) The process of claim 2 wherein R1 is -CH₂-CH₂-, -CH₂-CH(OH)-CH₂-, or mixtures thereof; R2 is OH, SO₃Z, OSO₃Z or mixtures thereof; n ranges from 1 to 20; Z is hydrogen or a water soluble cation selected from the group consisting of Na, K, and NH₄; the molar ratio c:d ranges from 15:1 to 1:10.

5. (Previously Amended) The process of claim 2 wherein R1 is $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-$; R2 is OSO_3Z ; n ranges from 5 to 20; Z is hydrogen or a water soluble cation selected from the group consisting of Na, K, and NH_4 ; the molar ratio c:d ranges from 15:1 to 2:1.

6. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein at least 85 mole % of the hypophosphorous acid charged is incorporated into the resulting polymer matrix.

7. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein said copolymers are added to an aqueous system in an effective amount for the purpose of controlling corrosion and the deposition of scale imparting particulates on the structural parts in contact with the aqueous system.

8. (Original) The process of claim 7 wherein the allyloxy monomer is 1-allyloxy-2,3-propanediol; sodium 1-allyloxy-2-hydroxypropyl sulfonate; hydroxypolyethoxy allyl ether; ammonium allylpolyethoxy sulfate; or mixtures thereof.

9. (Original) The process of claim 7 further comprising adding to the aqueous system an effective amount for the purpose a topping agent selected from the group consisting of polyacrylates, phosphoric acid and water-soluble salts thereof, phosphonic acids and water-soluble salts thereof, azole compounds, and polyepoxysuccinic acids.

10. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein said hypophosphorous acid or salt thereof is shot fed to the polymerization prior to feed of said acrylic acid to said reactor.

11. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein said hypophosphorous acid feed is for about 50% - 75% of the duration of said acrylic acid feed.

Serial No. 10/646,278

-5-

12-15 (Cancelled) Claims 12-15 have been cancelled without prejudice.